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Kelly: 'Mafia more powerful than forces'

NATIONALIST leader Guillermo Patricio Kelly, who turned up alive at a service station in Maschwitz shortly after midnight yesterday, attributed his abduction to a "mafia which has more power in this country than the armed forces."

At an impromptu news conference outside his home, Kelly said he knew the identity of several of the armed men who kidnapped him on Wednesday morning, but declined to name them on the grounds of "secret court proceedings."

The 14 men who allegedly took part in his abduction "belong to a gang of followers of Lorenzo Miguel who have been acting within the labour unions for many years, with the help of their bodyguards, professional killers and drug dealers," Kelly said.

District Judge Lucio Somoza, who is investigating the case, "will disclose the identity of my

captors on Monday," the editor of the monthly Quorum magazine said.

Visibly tired, Kelly told the crowd of journalists that he had testified before Judge Somoza at the 35th precinct police station "from three to six in the morning." This followed "a three-hour testimony at a provincial police station in Maschwitz, 40km north of downtown Buenos Aires, where he was taken after reportedly asking for help at the Maschwitz Argentine Automobile Club (ACA) service station. An eyewitness at the service station said Kelly's clothes were "bloodstained all over."

Kelly told reporters that he was kept lying face down on the floor of a car for over 16 hours, and his kidnappers were "doing quite a few nice things to me." He refused to give details, however, on whether he escaped from his captors or if they let him go. He

would save his story for the judge, he said.

Asked whether the incident might have been a "self-abduction," Kelly replied angrily:

"They beat me on the head and kicked me in the kidneys until I

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'Prisoners of a mafia of 100'

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urinated blood. Then they broke one of my legs and bust my testicles... What else do you want? Do you want me to show them to you?"

Kelly had cuts all over his face and on his scalp, as well as bruises around his eyes.

Kelly praised the police's behaviour in the face of his abduction, stating that "if the patrolmen who were observing the kidnapping had done any attempt to intercede, both they and I would have been instantly ki-

lled."

The abduction was allegedly led by a man dressed up in the uniform of an Army colonel, the nationalist leader said, terming the incident "an insult to the armed forces." This man, who "was called 'Federico' by the gang", was "ready to kill both policemen and military personnel," Kelly said.

As for the rest of the group, Kelly said that three of them were nicknamed "Doctor," "Tufco" and "Bagre." According to Kelly, "if the armed forces really wanted

to dismantle this mafia, they could do so in a matter of hours."

"If they do not," he said, "28 million Argentines will continue to be the prisoners of a mafia of 100 people."

Kelly also charged that "there are 52 journalists who receive their envelopes from (former Navy Commander-in-Chief Admiral Emilio) Massera's gang every month," although he refused to name them.

"Their (the journalists') identities will be disclosed in the next issue of Quorum," he said.

Asked whether he knew where his captors had taken him, Kelly said that "two of the gang, one of whom was short and had a dark moustache" got into his car, beating him with their arms and driving to Florida, about 25km northwest of Buenos Aires, where Kelly's car was later found.

"There they threw me into a green Ford Falcon, which bore no licence plate," Kelly said.

During an estimated four-hour drive in the Falcon, "the man dressed up as a colonel said to me 'Kelly, you are a bigger fish than we thought. There's a big fuss going on out there because of you'," Kelly said.

He was then taken to "some kind of a farm," where they questioned him in "a childish, fascist and stupid way," Kelly said, adding that he was ordered to speak out about his reasons for opposing Lorenzo Miguel and about any information he had on the murder of Jorge Dubischak.

Kelly also admitted he did not know why his captors had not killed him, adding however, that "I do not think I will live for very long."

Meanwhile it was disclosed yesterday that the federal police has strengthened police protection of Federal Judges Oscar Salvi and Nicasio Dibur, who are headed court probes into the murder of businessman Fernando Brar and the activities of the "Triple A" terrorist organization respectively. Kelly has provided mass evidence in both cases.

Kelly's "re-appearance" set off a harsh-worded statement by 62 Organizations leader Lorenzo Miguel, who called it "scandalous self-abduction" attack against the Peronist Party "which undoubtedly counted the support of the current government."

"Mr Kelly has a record provoking the Justicialist Party and the labour unions and serving very specific interest groups," the union leader said in a lengthy statement released yesterday evening.

Meanwhile the ruling Jur held a meeting lasting several hours with President Reynal Bignone to discuss Kelly's "reappearance" and the charges contained in a statement released by Gregorio Dupont on Wednesday. The statement, which was a copy of an anonymous letter allegedly sent to Judge Salvi, traced the career of "Anibal Gordon" and other office non-commissioned officers and civilians reportedly involved in the "dirty war." (NA-DYN)